

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, and 10-19 are presently pending. New Claim 19 has written support in the Specification as filed, for example at page 12, lines 7-13 and pages 11, line 23 to page 13, line 21. No new matter has been added herewith. The following addresses the substance of the Office Action.

Objection to Claim 1

Claim 1 was objected to because "p phenylenediamine" was recited instead of "p-phenylenediamine". Claim 1 is amended to make the correction.

Obviousness

Claims 1-5, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shores (U.S. Patent No. 5,304,419). In particular, the Examiner rejected Claim 1 of the present invention by stating that the claim is obvious over Shores, which teaches an enclosure for an electronic device sealed in a container, wherein the inner surface of the enclosure is coated with an adhesive comprising a solid desiccant material (see the abstract). The Examiner states in Paragraph 17 of the Office Action that the adhesive contains "a resin component", "a thermally conductive component", and "a hygroscopic component".

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to delete recitation of a thermally conductive material. Thus, the moisture-absorbent formed body of the present invention comprises 1) a specific amine compound, 2) a hygroscopic agent, and 3) a specific resin component. By deleting "a thermally conductive material" from Claim 1 and limiting the essential component of the moisture-absorbent formed body of the present invention to "an amine compound", the claimed subject matter is not obvious in light of Shores, which is completely silent regarding an "amine compound".

When the moisture-absorbent formed body of the present invention is used as a moisture-absorbent formed body for an organic EL device, the amine compound contributes particularly to preventing the occurrence of dark spots and to suppressing the growth of any dark spots that do occur (English specification, page 9, lines 19-22, and page 22, lines 1-7). Examples 1.1-1.3 of the present invention each describe a moisture-absorbent formed body containing an amine compound, a hygroscopic agent, and a resin component. On the other hand, Comparative Examples 1.1-1.3 of the present invention each describe a moisture-absorbent formed body that

does not contain an amine compound. Test Example 1.1 carries out degradation of these moisture-absorbent formed bodies. Table 1 shows that the moisture-absorbent formed bodies according to Examples 1.1-1.3 effectively suppress the occurrence and growth of dark spots.

Shores provides no reason to one of skill in the art to include an amine compound. Accordingly, the claims are not obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 12-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shores (*supra*) in view of Nikaido (U.S. Patent No. 5,300,508). However, in view of the remarks above, the claims are not obvious in light of the combined references, since neither reference provides a reason to include an amine compound in the presently claimed moisture-absorbent formed body. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicant is not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicant has made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of Applicants' amendments to the Claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Application No.: 10/520,444
Filing Date: January 6, 2005

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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